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# News Release



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## **GPO COMPLETES FY 2003 APPROPRIATIONS PRESENTATION WITH SENATE TESTIMONY**

The Government Printing Office (GPO) completed the presentation of its FY 2003 appropriations request to Congress by appearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations on Wednesday, May 8. GPO presented its appropriations request to the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on April 24.

Testifying before Subcommittee Chairman Richard J. Durbin, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario requested a total of \$129.3 million for FY 2003. The request includes \$95.2 million for Congressional Printing and Binding and \$34.1 million for Salaries and Expenses of the Superintendent of Documents.

The request represents an increase of \$14.7 million over the amount approved for FY 2002. However, the increase includes \$6.9 million to cover the cost of post-retirement benefits for the employees covered by the two appropriations, in compliance with a directive from the Office of Management and Budget. It also includes approximately \$5.9 million for congressional printing to fund a prior year (FY 2001) shortfall in that appropriation. Net of these amounts, GPO's request for FY 2003 represents an increase of \$1.9 million, or less than 2%, over the amount approved by Congress for the previous year.

During the hearing, Chairman Durbin questioned DiMario and Superintendent of Documents Francis Buckley about the impact of the May 3, 2002, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum concerning the procurement of printing and duplicating through GPO. DiMario noted that the policy change would have to be processed as a revision to the Federal Acquisition Regulation affecting the executive branch, and that there would be no immediate impact. If the change is made, however, he said there would be many negative results, including negative impacts on the majority of GPO's workforce. Buckley discussed how OMB's proposal would impair public access to Government documents through Federal depository

libraries. DiMario said GPO would provide a cost estimate of the impact of the OMB proposal on GPO for the Subcommittee.

A noteworthy component of GPO's FY 2003 request for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents is a plan to commit approximately \$2.6 million to the replacement of obsolete formats, servers, and other equipment, and for improvements to enhance online services provided through **GPO Access**, GPO's online information service ([www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess](http://www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess)). DiMario observed that "it is essential that we enhance our data archiving capabilities, including data migration activities to refresh essential legislative and regulatory online files." This funding increase would be made possible primarily through savings generated from the reduced distribution of printing publications to depository libraries, as a result of the predominant role that online dissemination of Government information now plays in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). A management audit of GPO, conducted in 1998 by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., recommended that GPO seek increased funding from Congress for **GPO Access**.

GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation covers the costs of producing the *Congressional Record*, bills, reports, hearings, documents, and related legislative products. Each year, a substantial volume of this work is requisitioned from GPO. This appropriation also covers the cost of building congressional information databases for dissemination via **GPO Access**.

The majority of the Superintendent of Documents Salaries and Expenses Appropriation is for the FDLP, under which Government publications are distributed in print, microfiche, or electronic formats to approximately 1,300 libraries nationwide for the free use of the public. It also funds the cataloging and indexing of Government publications, the distribution of Government publications as required by law, and the distribution of US. Government publications to foreign libraries which in turn agree to provide copies of their official publications to the Library of Congress. In addition, this appropriation provides the majority of funding for **GPO Access**, which provides online access to nearly 225,000 Government titles, and from which the public is now retrieving an average of 31 million Government documents each month.

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